SUMMARIZED MINUTES

of the

EIGHTEENTH VALLEY-STATES COORDINATING-COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

Roanoke Hotel, Roanoke, Virginia

Tuesday, March 3, 1942

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At the 17th semi-annual Valley-States Conference, held in Atlanta, Ga., on October 28, 1941, the members voted (Minutes, p. 13) to meet at Abingdon, Va., on Tuesday, March 3, 1942. This motion overlooked an earlier action of the conference in providing (Minutes, p. 9) for a 2-day meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 3-4, 1942.

After adjournment, Director Hutcheson of Virginia expressed his desire to change the place of meeting from Abindgon to Roanoke, because of spring weather conditions and hotel accommodations in the mountain counties. He desired also to change the date in order to provide for the two-day meeting previously voted.

The proposed alteration of place and date of meeting was referred to the Coordinating Committee and approved by them. It then was referred to the members of the Conference and approved by them.

The Conference of Oct. 28, 1941, also voted (Minutes, p. 11) that a committee of three (one agronomist, one in animal husbandry and dairying, and one in forestry) be appointed by the Chairman to arrange for a technical program on these subjects for the two-day meeting on March 3-4, 1942. In the press of assembling and preparing the manuscripts for Part 2: Test-Demonstration Results, the Executive Secretary overlooked the fact that this committee had not been appointed.

Realizing that fact in mid-January, the Secretary immediately took up the matter with the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee. He suggested that, because the technical committee had not been appointed and because of the emergency conditions prevailing, it would be preferable to schedule the spring meeting for the discussion of pressing administrative questions. A poll of the conference members confirmed this judgment, and expressed desire for a one-day meeting.

Later, the pressure of other meetings made it desirable to poll the members on the question of holding the conference on Monday, March 2. Most of the members were willing but it developed that two would not be able to attend on that date, so it was decided by the Coordinating Committee to adhere to Tuesday, March 3.

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A list, showing dates and places of the 17 previous conferences and the form and extent of their minutes, is attached as Appendix A (p. 13).

The 18th Valley-States Conference was called to order by Chairman Cooper at 9:10 A.M. At the afternoon session, Chairman Cooper asked Dean Schaub of North Carolina to preside

O. PERSONNEL OF THE CONFERENCE

Extension Director Brown of Georgia was absent because snow prevented his making connections. Station Director Dorman of Mississippi was absent because of hearings on appropriations but Dean Colmer came in his place. Dean Jacob and Station Director Mooers of Tennessee also were absent. No one was present from any of the 4 affiliated States, although Dean Horlacher of Arkansas had planned to come.

Alabama Director P.O. Davis, Extension Service, Auburn

Dean M. J. Funchess, School of Agriculture, Auburn

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Arkansas None present

indiana.

Florida None present

Director H. P. Stuckey, Experiment Station, Experiment Georgia

Kentucky Dean Thomas P. Cooper, College of Agriculture, Lexington

None present Louisiana

Director L. I. Jones. Extension Service. State College Mississippi Dean E. B. Colmer. College of Agriculture, State College

No. Carolina Dean I. O. Schaub, Extension Service, Raleigh Director L. D. Baver, Experiment Station, Raleigh

So. Carolina None present

... WILLIBJEN Director C. E. Brehm, Extension Service, Knoxville Tennessee ma oleman Assistant Director J. H. McLeod, Extension Service, Knoxville

Director John R. Hutcheson, Extension Service, Blacksburg Virginia · Les' Director A. W. Drinkard, Jr., Experiment Station, Blacksburg

Tennessee Valley Authority. Knoxville

Director J. C. McAmis, Department of Agricultural Relations Mr. Neil Bass, Chief Conservation Engineer

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington

Mr. M. S. Eisenhower, Land-Use Coordinator
Mr. J. L. Boatman, Chief, Div. Subject-Matter, Ext. Serv.
Dr. J. T. Jardine, Chief, Office of Experiment Stations
Dr. Carleton R. Ball, Exec. Secy., Coordinating Committee

1. OLD AND NEW PROBLEMS IN RELATIONS UNDER THE LAND-GRANT COLLEGE - USDA SYSTEM

Discussion under this heading (Topic No. 1 in the Conference program), includes also the relation of certain action-agency programs to the Valley-States-TVA cooperative program (Topic No. 8 in the Conference program), centering around certain recent developments as presented below.

A. State-USDA and County-USDA War Boards

The discussion was concerned chiefly with the interpretation of the language of Memorandum No. 921 and its Supplement No. 1, from the Secretary of Agriculture. Specifically the discussion was concerned with (a) the extent of the authority given the War Boards in Sections 4 and 7 of Supplement No. 1, and of the procedures developed under that authority, and (b) the requirement that the chairman report directly to the Secretary of Agriculture on any failure of a Departmental agency to carry out tasks assigned by the War Board. The major points made on both sides of the questions are set forth in the following paragraphs.

- l. The language of Memorandum No. 921 and Supplement No. 1 has been interpreted by some to give the War Boards definite authority over Federal and Federal-State agencies in the States and counties. To this it was replied that the language probably was unfortunate but that the intent was to give the State and County War Boards coordinating responsibility with reference to other agencies and not administrative authority over them. Their administrative authority is limited to the announcing of established goals and to such control measures as priorities, rationing, licensing, etc. The War Board or its Chairman may not exercise authority over the employees or staff of the Land-Grant Colleges.
- 2. It was claimed that in some cases State and County War Boards had assumed administrative authority far in excess of the interpretations listed above and thereby had usurped the functions of other established agencies. In reply, it was pointed out that different people interpret the same language differently and that some individuals are prone to assume much more authority than has been delegated to them. Such conditions are inevitable when new agencies and personnel are dealing with new problems under emergency conditions requiring prompt and effective action.

- 3. It was suggested that the term "Council" would have been better than "Board", as the latter implies authority and some individuals are prone to go beyond implications.
- 4. The State and County War Boards have been issuing a large volume of informational or propaganda material. This should not happen. The regular subject-matter agencies should continue to issue their own informational material as usual and if they are not able to do that work it would be better to abolish them. To this, assurance was given that it was intended that the Extension Service should provide all agricultural information on practices recommended. In Virginia, all agricultural information goes out through the County Agent, who is the Secretary of the County War Board.
- 5. It was suggested that much of the trouble arose from decisions made by administrators or committees in Washington or in regional headquarters remote from county problems and that programs in the counties would go along with excellent results if left in the hands of the regular operating agencies.
- by this Memorandum and its Supplement. There has been too much delay in clarifying their position in relation to Memorandum No. 921 and to other agencies. The wording of the Secretary's Memorandum to the Extension Service on Feby. 11 was much better. It may be desirable to issue a clarifying supplement to Memorandum No. 921-1. These problems would have been avoided if all agencies had followed TVA procedures in cooperative relations. Much time and effort were spent on development of correct procedures in the Valley and the results have been good. Things are going well and no special relationships are provided except through this Conference.
 - 7. It was stated that the Extension Memorandum of Feby. 11 was intended to be a redeclaration of the principles set forth in 1914. It pulls some action agencies back into line and assigns to the Extension Service all its proper functions. There can be no final line of demarcation between the Extension Service and other agencies. The Extension Memorandum was approved by the Committee on Extension Organization and Policy and by most of the agencies involved. Successful operation must depend on the spirit of the operating personnel.

The required Committee on War-Time Extension Work has been set up. The personnel includes

Director Carrigan of Vermont

Director Simons of New York

Director Hutcheson of Virginia

Director Watkins of South Carolina

Director Williamson of Texas

Director Ramsower of Ohio

Director Rusk of Illinois

Director Miller of Minnesota

Director Peterson of Utah

B. Uncoordinated Actions by Some Agencies

In general, the AAA program is in accord with the State College program. It was pointed out, however, that the AAA had started a campaign to grow long-staple cotton in Tennessee. This action disregarded the previous cotton agreement and also the accumulated farmer and Experiment-Station experience. And yet, Extension-Service non-cooperation with this program may result in a War-Board unfavorable report to the Secretary of Agriculture, under Sec. 7 of Memorandum No. 921-1. It was pointed out that those who made arbitrary decisions during World War 1 got themselves and others into trouble. Now public opinion insists on having a part in making decisions on procedures.

It was stated further that there had been no restatement of Experiment-Station relations and that Directors should become familiar with current programs and should have definite responsibility in helping to make proper decision as to what should be grown, and where.

C. Cooperation of Agencies with War Department

Land-purchase officers of the War Department want assistance in relocating families evacuated from areas purchased for camp sites. In Tennessee, the War Board Chairman asked the representatives of each of several agencies to confer with the War-Department representatives. Much confusion, wasted effort, and lost time resulted from the separate visits by some 7 different officials to the military representative. Proper coordination by the War Board would have brought about a special organized committee and a single visit and conference.

D. Agricultural Production Goals

It was agreed that the joint memorandum of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the Extension Service on 1943 agricultural production goals probably was issued too early. Changing world conditions may make production needs entirely different. Work already done may be wasted effort. It was brought out that several States had not yet started, as they felt that action was premature.

E. Confusion as to Different Local Committees

It was pointed out that multiplication of local committees by different agencies was in itself causing confusion as to scope and function. Among those named were

AAA State and County and Community Committees

BAE State and County Committees

War Board State and County and Community Committees

School syche F. Joint Advisory Committee on Soil Surveys of a section

It was stated that the Land-Grant College Association had voted to arrange for all necessary soil surveys through a joint advisory committee of six, of whom three would be designated by the Association and three by the Secretary of Agriculture. The three representatives of the Association are Dr. Bradfield of New York, Dr. Baver of North Carolina, and Dr. Pierre of Iowa.

It was noted further that the Land-Grant College Association had voted to recommend that the phrase: "Land-Use Capability", as used by the SCS, be changed to something less definite and more nearly relating to erosion hazards and conservation.

2. ALABAMA SOIL-CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The Chairman of the Coordinating Committee presented a statement with reference to the Northeast Alabama and the Northwest Alabama Soil Conservation Districts and the action of members of the U.S.D.A. relative thereto, with the further statement that the Committee will take up the matter with the Secretary of Agriculture.

3. HOW TO CARRY THE WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE WITH GREATLY REDUCED PERSONNEL

ALVINE CLASS NO

It was stated that station workers, county agents, and assistant county agents are being inducted into the service or called as reserve officers. Virginia already has lost 43 men, of whom 75% were reserve officers. The situation will become progressively worse as larger numbers are called for military service.

At present the situation is being met by the use of student assistants, young graduates not yet called, and those who are rejected for physical reasons. Agencies like the AAA, which have a large percentage of young men, may be hard hit but their financial position allows them to find replacements by calling men from other agencies at higher salaries. Other replacements will be made by using older and less well trained men on the vacated jobs.

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The question of asking deferment for men is a many-sided problem. Some draft boards and other military representatives are very sympathetic to research, extension, and agriculture. Others are indifferent. Some sympathetic members, on their own initiative, have asked deferment for agricultural men. Deferment for reserve officers must be asked before they are called into service. The institutions do not like to ask deferment for large numbers of men. TVA applies for only a minimum number. In the State institutions, many of the deferrments held to be vitally important have been rejected by the draft boards. In Mississippi not more than 10 out of 100 seniors were deemed by the College to be actually necessary to the war food program as dairy experts, etc.

It is a very difficult problem for draft boards to say that one boy shall go to fight whereas another shall stay at home. Fathers and mothers wonder about the basis for decision. The Selective Service provides a questionnaire which may be filled and submitted to the Board. Selectees or their parents who ask deferment may suffer in the sentiment of the community. In priority of employment, most agricultural units are in Class 5, the lowest grade.

Another remedy for the situation is to review all projects and slow down or temporarily abandon those less important to the war effort. More community leadership must be created and trained. The automobile, rubber, and gasoline situations will compel greater resort to correspondence, telephone calls, and foot work. Greater use of women probably can be made unless war demands interfere.

4. HOW MEET THE NEW PROBLEMS ARISING FROM INCREASING WAR-TIME AGRICULTURAL NEEDS IN 1942 AND 1943?

Several administrative and technical problems were posed. Do farmers actually feel able to meet the goals or is this merely the opinion of the Colleges? Must more priorities for farmers be asked in machinery and repairs? In fertilizers, there is no rationing but dealers discriminate between farmers in favor of older or larger customers. How can the great shortage of nitrogen be relieved? Conferences have been called but it now is too late to help the deep South. Dealers prefer low-analysis goods, which shorts N.

Tennessee farmers were urged to produce more milk and eggs and did so, but now there are no adequate sales prices. It costs too much to collect small lots and large lots produce surpluses. Farmers now are selling flocks and hatching fewer chicks. In North Carolina, the farmer cooperatives now announce on Saturday the egg prices for the next week. There is need for development of local marketing facilities. The Agricultural Marketing Service now buys as small as 2-case lots of eggs.

Milk storage capacity is full, transportation is lacking, and prices drop. There is a shortage of processing equipment and of tin.

National needs are great, however, and must be stressed. The farmer will respond to the best of his ability when need is shown.

5. HOW MEET INCREASING AGRICULTURAL NEEDS WITHOUT SACRIFICING SOIL CONSERVATION PRACTICES?

Labor will be a major factor in this. Production goals will be met where labor and machinery are available. This increased production will cause heavier draft on fertility and permit greater erosion in those areas than in others. A drive is on for more mechanized equipment and longer daily use. Grassland must be plowed. Rotations must be broken.

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Fertilizer will be short. There must be some sacrifice of conservation during war but it should be held to the lowest possible point.

Soybeans permit erosion but must be grown, and should be restricted to the more level land. Peanuts also must be grown for oil and in some States will occupy a large percentage of the arable land. If well fertilized and followed by cover crops, soil losses will be minimized. Some good land in forested areas may well be assigned to dispossessed families.

In a discussion with Administrator Evans of the AAA it came out that AAA looks to SCS for subject-matter in the AAA program. It is felt that the Secretary's Memorandum to Extension on Feby. 11 covers the matter but was misinterpreted.

6. EFFECT OF THE WAR ON ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES OF THE TVA IN THE COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

As to personnel, it was recognized that shifts in assistant county agents create loss in efficiency, progress, records, etc. If a county agent must be replaced, and an assistant county agent is qualified, it would be the logical thing to promote the assistant. It would be expected, however, that he would not be sent to a county where there was no cooperative State-TVA program in operation. Women may be used to help out in the test-demonstration program as men become scarcer. One woman already is employed in North Carolina.

As to phosphates, it was noted that production had been curtailed by the necessity for transferring available power to aluminum production but that phosphate reserves are being held for the ascertained needs of the cooperating States. Up to the present time, the States have not requisitioned all of the phosphates which have been held for them.

As to water, the integrated program of TVA recognized the multiple uses of water. Use by people necessarily comes first but power is very important and the same water may serve both purposes.

7. ACQUISITION OF LAND CONTIGUOUS TO TVA RESERVOIRS

The Chairman of the Correlating Committee presented a statement from the Tennessee Valley Authority requesting guidance with reference to the purchase by the Authority of certain lands surrounding TVA reservoirs and their possible later use by the U.S. Forest Service.

In the mountaineous areas, strips of land--some forested, some cleared--lie between the reservoirs and present National Forest holdings. The question is raised as to whether these should be left in private ownership or purchased by the Authority and later incorporated in the adjacent National Forests. The Authority either buys flowage rights or

takes title in fee simple, depending upon economy and other factors. The Forest Service prefers fee purchase, as it obviates later purchase by them.

The Committee recommended that representatives of local farmer groups, with the guidance of the State Extension Services, give consideration to the soils and the agricultural and forestry conditions and possibilities of such areas, and to the interests of TVA and the U.S. Forest Service, and recommend the action which appears to be of the greatest benefit to the people. As two of the dams in the mountain area are scheduled for rapid construction, prompt decision as to action is necessary.

MOVED by Chairman Cooper that the recommendation of the Correlating Committee be adopted. Seconded and CARRIED.

8. INTEGRATION OF SERVICES AND AVAILABLE INFORMATION OF THE TVA DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE AND FORESTRY RELATIONS INTO THE TEST-DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

In the absence of Director Brown, it was the understanding of Director Stuckey that the topic covered a possible enlargement of the food-processing program in North Georgia and the inclusion of forest planting and management on the test-demonstration farms.

9. TRAINING JOINT TVA-STATE EMPLOYEES IN OBJECTIVES AND PROCEDURES

The District Extension Agents, at their last annual conference and tour, expressed a desire for more training in the fundamental principles and practices of the TVA program. They suggested also that a manual of the objectives, procedures, and practices be compiled. Orientation courses for both older and newer employees in the States were held to be desirable, with the understanding that some would attend in one year, others in the next year, and so on. This discussion was crystallized in two motions.

MOVED by Director Hutcheson that State-TVA joint employees be given opportunity for training in the objectives and procedures of the cooperative program. Seconded and CARRIED.

MOVED by Director Brehm that the most experienced operating personnel be designated to develop a statement of objectives. Seconded and CARRIED.

PROGRAM UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS

In response to a question as to whether phosphate supplies for test-demonstrations would be available, Director McAmis stated that the Authority always had set aside the quantities prospectively required by the States, but that the States never had used the full amounts which the TVA budget would permit. It will be possible to supply about 20% more phosphate for test-demonstrations in the next fiscal year than has been used heretofore.

The principal need appears to be for more and better records from selected farms. A greater study of these results by all groups of specialists is needed. Not enough of these specialists have yet been concerned in the test-demonstration program.

There is need also for a modified procedure on other and more numerous farms, as in the area demonstrations. This form of extensive test-demonstration may be the answer. While 40 more counties in Virginia are ready to undertake the program, they do not lie within the Tennessee Valley. Water control, however, is a basic problem in Virginia.

The Authority would prefer no increase in row crops in the Valley Area, especially in the upper part where steep slopes are common and on streams which do not drain into water-retaining reservoirs. It is important to expand the program on the new areas to which farmers have been shifted and also on the border lands surrounding reservoirs.

Not all test-demonstration farmers progress equally, although in general the farmers feel that they are better off. The incomes of some of these farmers actually have been lowered. That is not surprising where farmers are making large adjustments. Changes in live-stock farming are expensive. The chief emphasis has been on the production of pastures and meadows and some of these farmers have lacked the feed crops necessary to carry increased livestock through the winter.

11. READJUSTMENT OF RESERVOIR-AREA POPULATION

The problem of relocation and readjustment of families living in reservoir areas has proved to be much larger than first was recognized. The war-time labor shortage, however, now makes the solution temporarily easier than when there was widespread unemployment.

The Authority often is asked if it ought to employ farm labor on reservoir clearance and dam construction under present conditions. The Authority has tried hard to find unemployed persons, as far as possible. However, it cannot say to any individual that he is not to apply for work under the Authority. Effort should be intensified in these areas where farmers are having the most difficulty in making adjustments.

12. PLACE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

MOVED by Dean Cooper that the 19th Valley-States Conference be held at the Andrew Johnson Hotel, in Knoxville, Tennessee, on Tuesday, October 6, 1942. Seconded and CARRIED.

13. FUTURE MEETING OF SPECIALISTS

Director Baver asked as to the wishes of the Conference regarding a future meeting of the specialists in agronomy, animal husbandry and dairying, and forestry, which was authorized by vote of the 17th Valley-States Conference on October 28, 1941. The Secretary pointed out that the Conference previously had recommended that the staff at each member institution hold a meeting and agree on their State recommendations before their representatives went to the regional meeting. Dr. Baver said that North Carolina already had held such a staff meeting.

MOVED by Dean Cooper that a meeting of these three groups of specialists be arranged. Motion seconded and CARRIED.

It was pointed out that coordinated station experiments on such new TVA materials as fused phosphate are needed, especially with reference to fineness of grinding and degree of freedom from fluorine. The agronomists already had held a meeting and made certain recommendations to the Conference. It is desirable that all the stations get together on a coordinated program. General agreement was expressed on the necessity and desirability of correlating the research program.

MOVED by Director Davis that Director Baver, Chairman of the Agronomic Committee, be empowered to form a committee on Experiment Station procedure with TVA materials. Motion seconded and CARRIED.

On motion the 18th Valley-States Conference adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carleton R. Ball,

Executive Secretary.

VALLEY STATES CONFERENCES

of

LAND-GRANT COLLEGE DEANS AND DIRECTORS, TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY OFFICIALS, and

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPRESENTATIVES

No.	Date	Place	Minutes
1.	1933		
2.	1933, October 7	Knoxville, Tennessee.	Typed, 1 p. Funchess letter, 1 p.
3.	1934, July 6-7	Chattanooga, Tennessee.	Typed, 5 pp.
4.	1934, October 27	Muscle Shoals, Alabama.	Mimeographed, 13 pp.
5.	1935, December 12	Chattanooga, Tennessee.	Typed, 15 pp.
6,	1936, June 26-27	Chattanooga, Tennessee.	Mimeographed, 20 pp.
7.	1937, February 6	Knoxville, Tennessee.	Typed, 5 pp.
8.	1937, July 10	Knoxville, Tennessee.	Typed, 10 pp.
9.	1937, November 3	Knoxville, Tennessee.	Typed, 5 pp.
10.	1938, April 25	Knoxville, Tennessee.	Typed, 12 pp.
11.	1938, October 4	Atlanta, Georgia.	Typed, 10 pp.
12.	1939, April 4	Birmingham, Alabama.	Typed, 9 pp.
13.	1939, October 2	Chattanooga, Tennessee.	Typed, 9 pp.
14.	1940, April 2	Knoxville, Tennessee.	Mimeographed, 18 pp.
15.	1940, October 1	Asheville, North Carolina.	Typed, 9 pp.
16.	1941, March 4-5	Florence, Alabama.	Mimeographed, 32 pp.
17.	1941, October 28	Atlanta, Georgia.	Mimeographed, 29 pp.
18.	1942, March 2	Roanoke, Virginia.	Mimeographed, 13 pp.

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